

colleagues join me in recognizing a gifted individual, Luis "White Shoes" Martinez.

RECOGNIZING THE TRINKA DAVIS
VETERANS VILLAGE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today to recognize the grand opening of the Trinka Davis Veterans Village in Carrollton, Georgia on September 28, 2012. This is a momentous event for the 3rd district, and I am proud to help honor their great service to our nation's brave veterans.

The Trinka Davis Veterans Village would not have been possible without the \$17 million donation from the Trinka Davis Foundation. Ms. Katherine "Trinka" Rynne Davis was a Carroll County business leader who was profoundly impacted after learning of the difficulties our veterans and their families face on a daily basis. She founded the Trinka Davis Foundation on November 9, 2004 and focused the majority of the funding on improving the lives of our soldiers and healing the trauma from deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Following her unexpected death, Ms. Davis left her entire estate to her foundation. Over \$25 million was left to aid our veterans and their families. In working with the Atlanta VA Medical center, the Foundation developed the concept of the Veterans Village to best serve the needs of our local veterans in rehabilitating injuries and problems faced upon coming home; such as loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries, depression, PTSD, unemployment, and loss of homes.

The Trinka Davis Veterans Village has been built to serve as both a medical office and community living center for veterans across Georgia. Through regional research, the Foundation Board learned that veterans in the Bowden and Atlanta area needed a Community Based Outpatient Clinic and nursing facility in Carrollton, Georgia. Without the donations from the Trinka Davis Foundation, the construction and operation of the village would never have become a reality. The facility anticipates around 3,000 veterans in the area will use the primary care services, and with 42 beds, rehabilitation will be more accessible than before. The facility will have a family-centered approach to treatment and will let residents and family members of the village be more involved in their care. The Trinka Davis Veterans Village will also provide home-based care for patients who cannot travel to the clinic.

I would like to thank Trinka Davis, who I know is smiling down from above, her wonderful Foundation and the Atlanta VA for their hard work and donations to make the Veterans Village possible. The Trinka Davis Veterans Village is a great step in improving veteran care in our great state and helps us to give back to our veterans who have given everything so that we can live free.

CONGRATULATING EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate East Tennessee Foundation in Knoxville, Tennessee, on obtaining its National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

East Tennessee Foundation is headed by my longtime friend Michael McClamroch.

Mike is one of the hardest working and finest men I know, and I am very proud of his leadership of East Tennessee Foundation and all the great work it does for East Tennessee.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors, administer more than \$40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions.

Achieving this accreditation is a rigorous process, demonstrating that East Tennessee Foundation has a commitment to the highest standards possible.

I want to again congratulate my friend, Mike McClamroch, and East Tennessee Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation and commend the foundation's dedicated service to East Tennessee.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL BILL RHEA STARNES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative PHIL ROE, I submit these remarks in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Bill Rhea Starnes, a veteran and distinguished pilot, who was prematurely taken from us on August 24, 2012.

As a member of both the United States Air Force and the Tennessee Army National Guard, Bill gallantly served our country for 39 years. At the ripe old age of 14, his love for aviation was first cultivated when his father taught him how to fly a plane. After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Bill continued his flight training at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Following flight school, Bill served in Vietnam, where he flew approximately 800 combat hours. In 2005 and 2006, he was deployed to Kosovo. Throughout his military career, Bill demonstrated the courage, fortitude, and wisdom that a nation prays for and a military dreams of having. He was the recipient of nearly 50 awards including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and air medals with valor and army commendation.

Even down to his voicemail—"Hello, it's Bill. Learn as if you will live forever, and live as if you will die tomorrow."—Bill embodied a strong desire to live life to the fullest. Though he didn't reside in the Ninth District, I assure you, Bill was an active member of our community. As the chief pilot for K-VA-T Food Stores and Central Coal Company, he was even said

to be a "fixture" at the Virginia Highlands Airport.

A committed family man, a man who loved God and his country, and a friend of many, Bill will be greatly missed by his colleagues and those he served. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lisa; his two sons; his father; his family; and his friends.

Well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the United States military and our community, I am honored to pay tribute to this man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be long remembered throughout our region.

HONORING MEL BIRDWELL

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Mrs. Mel Birdwell, the wife of Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell. She has been one of the most active and visible spouses of a Hood County elected official on the local, state or national level.

For three years Mrs. Birdwell has served on the board of the Republican Women of Hood County. During this time she has assisted with expanding the party, as well as, securing copies of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence to give to every 5th grade student in every Hood County elementary school.

Mrs. Birdwell has served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Hood County where she had extensive positive influences for the children in our community.

One of Mrs. Birdwell's most significant accomplishments would be to that of her and Senator Birdwell's Face the Fire Ministry. This ministry assists burn survivors and wounded servicemen and women and their families. Mrs. Birdwell and her husband began this ministry after her husband's recovery from severe burns due to the 9/11 terrorist attack of the Pentagon. Because her husband's duties as Senator require much of his attention, Mel has single-handedly taken charge of the ministry.

Mrs. Birdwell is also a role model for wives and mothers everywhere in her loyalty to her husband. When presented by the military with a form for her signature which read "soldier's death imminent within 72 hours", Mrs. Birdwell fought for them to do whatever it takes to ensure the survival of her husband. Her never ending fight for his life and God's intervention is why we have Senator Birdwell with us today.

In 2002, Mrs. Birdwell was presented with the fourth annual Robertson McQuilkin Award for Commitment to Marriage by Family Life Ministries. In 2004, the Department of the Army recognized her 17 plus years of service to the Army family with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

Today we recognize and honor Mrs. Mel Birdwell's devotion, dedication and loyalty to our Nation, our state, our county, and her family.